

Civil War
Soldier Papers
(Tennessee)

WINCHESTER ARMY BULLETIN.

"E PLURIBUS UNUM."

VOL 1.

WINCHESTER, TENN., JULY 23, 1863.

NO. 3.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE

MAJOR GEN. A. M'D. MCCOOK.

Commander of the 20th Army Corps.

This well known and distinguished General was born in Columbiana County, Ohio, April 22d, 1831, entered West Point Academy June 1847, and graduated July 1st, 1854, when he was ordered to Newport Barracks, Kentucky, and subsequently joined the 3d Regiment U. S. Infantry in New Mexico, where he served continually until January 1858. February 27, 1862, he reported for duty at West Point, as instructor of Infantry Tactics, Articles of War, and out-post science. He left West Point, April 24, 1864, to transfer in volunteers at Columbus, Ohio, and was elected Colonel of the 1st Regiment Ohio Volunteers, then at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and en route for Washington. He was with General Schenck when that officer was attacked at Vienna, and commanded 1st Regiment Ohio Volunteers at Bull Run, July 21, 1861; was commissioned Colonel of Ohio Volunteers for the three years service July 30, 1861, and recruited a regiment at Dayton. September 24, 1861, he was promoted to Brigadier General of volunteers, and reported for duty to General W. L. Slacum, commanding department of the Cumberland, October 14, 1861, and took command of the advance at Camp Seven, Ky., the following day. He organized and was placed in command of 2d Division Army of the Ohio, marched to Bowling Green and Nashville, and thence to the battle-field of Shiloh, arriving on the field at 6 o'clock A. M., the 7th of April, 1862, and fought his troops all day, driving the enemy until they took a precipitate retreat.

Gen. McCook was present at the siege of Corinth. His skirmishers were the first of the Federal forces in sight of the enemy's works, and after the evacuation of the place, his division marched in and garrisoned the town, afterward he marched his command to Huntsville and led the advance at Battle Creek, Tennessee, 21 miles west of Chattanooga, from whence he marched to Nashville and thence to Louisville, Ky. October 1, 1862, General McCook left Louisville in command of 20th Army Corps of the Army of the Ohio, and fought at Chaplin Hills, Oct 8, 1862, where the General and his troops stood up nobly against continual reinforcements Bragg was hurling upon him, and for the purpose of saving his army from annihilation, then with the hope of winning a victory. The writer of this was on the field and personally cognizant of the good conduct of Gen. McCook and his command, and takes pleasure in remarking that, had the heroism displayed by the 20th Army Corps at Chaplin Hills been properly supported, Bragg's army would never have fought the battle of Stone River. This is not the judgement of a newspaper correspondent, but of one who was in the hottest of the fight and knows what he says to be true.

After the battle of Chaplin Hills, General McCook marched his corps in pursuit of Bragg to Crab Orchard, and thence, as the right wing of the Army of the Cumberland, to Nash-

ville, Tennessee, and assumed command of the city November, 1862.

December 26, 1862, General McCook, in command of the right wing of the Army of the Cumberland, marched out on the Nolansville pike, engaged the enemy in the afternoon of the same day, at Nolansville, forced him back upon Knob Gap, from which point he was most triumphantly driven, with considerable loss, by Brig. Gen. J. C. Davis' 1st Division. Gen. McCook's Corps had heavy skirmishing with the enemy all of the next day, also, on the 29th of December. On the 30th he formed his troops in line of battle, in front of Bragg's left, at Stone River, and at the close of the day had driven in the enemy's picket and held the ground up to within musket range of the rebel lines and entrenchments. The history of the Stone River battle is known to the world, except, perhaps, some incidents of importance to Brigades and Divisions, the merits of which it would be improper to discuss at this time, especially in this connection.

The movements of Gen. McCook's 20th Corps in the late advance against Bragg, and his operations at Liberty Gap are fresh in the memory of every one. Had he been acquainted in his movements on the enemy at this point, as was indicated by the *Chattanooga Gazette*, he could have taken the Gap and pursued the enemy several miles to Bullbuckle the day his command reached Millersburg. The facts are, that Gen. McCook so disposed of his forces at Liberty Gap as to cause the enemy to bring up reinforcements for three consecutive days.

Major General A. M'D. McCook was placed in command of the 20th Army Corps, by direction of the President, January 8, 1863. He is an energetic and efficient commander. During his five years service in New Mexico, he participated in all the campaigns against the Indians—was in six engagements with the Comanches and Apache Indians June 27, 1857. He is 32 years of age and married Miss Kate Phillips, of Dayton, Ohio, daughter of J. B. Phillips, Esq., the 25th day of January 1863.

"Who goes there?" said an Irish sentry of the British Legion at Saint Sebastian. "A friend," was the reply. Then stand where you are, for by the powers you're the first I've met with in this murdering country.

Fun is the most conservative element of society, and ought to be cherished and encouraged by all lawful means. People never get into mischief when they are merry. Laughter is an enemy to malice, a foe to scandal, and a friend to every virtue. It promotes good temper, enlivens the heart, and brightens the intellect. Let us laugh when we can.

A young and very beautiful lady one evening wished to make an impression at a ball, and went to her aunt's to borrow her diamonds. "My dear," said the aunt, "you are young and beautiful; I am poor. Who needs the diamonds most? However, I will make a bargain with you—lend me your face and you may have my diamonds."

After the sting of folly has made men wise, they find it hard to conceive that others can be as foolish as they have been.

SKETCH OF THE DIVISION

COMMANDER BY

BRIG. GEN. JEE. C. DAVIS.

Some communication in Missouri, up to the close of the Stone River battle.

General Davis entered the regular army as 2d Lieutenant in 1st Artillery June 17, 1848, and was promoted to 1st Lieutenant in the same regiment at February 20th, 1852. He was on duty under command of Major Anderson, at Fort Sumpter, at the breaking out of the rebellion, and commanded one of the batteries during its heroic defence of that little garrison in the spring of 1861. May 16th, 1861, he was promoted to Captain of Artillery in the regular service and commissioned Colonel of 3d Regt. Indiana Volunteers in August of the same year. Subsequently, for meritorious conduct in the battle of Black Water, Missouri, he was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers.

The 1st Division, 20th Army Corps, was first organized in October 1861, and assigned to the command of Brigadier Genl. John C. Pope, and was composed of two Brigades commanded by Genl. J. C. Davis and Colonel Ketchum respectively. It was designated the right Division of Fremont's Army of the West, and was the advance of the army in its advance upon Springfield, Missouri, in October 1861. About the 1st of November, 1861, General Davis (then Colonel) succeeded General Pope in command of the Division, since when, with the exception of a few weeks, he has led it upon all marches and expeditions and in all engagements with the enemy.

The amount of active service General Davis and his division has performed during the war is partially shown by the following record: It made the Blackwater expedition in December, 1861; it broke camp at Ottumwa, January, 24, 1862, and joined Curtis in his march against Price and McCulloch, in the Southwest, when the designation of Gen. Davis' command was changed to the 3d Division of the Army of the Southwest. This was, perhaps, the severest campaign of the war, being made in mid-winter, and during which the division had several skirmishes with the enemy and fought with eminent distinction in the battle of Pea Ridge, and in April, 1862, with the Army of the Southwest it penetrated Arkansas as far as Batesville on the White River, at which place it received orders to make forced marches to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, where it arrived May 20th, 1862, having approached 249 miles in ten days, the best marching that has been done by any troops during the war. At Cape Girardeau the division was embarked on transports for Hamburg Landing, Tennessee, where it arrived on the 25th and disembarked; marching thence it joined our main army under General Halleck, and participated in the siege of Corinth, until its evacuation by the enemy, May 30th, after which it marched in pursuit of the rebels as far as Booneville. June 27, 1862, it again took up the line of march on an expedition to Holly Springs, Mississippi, via Ripley, and, in obedience to orders, when within a few miles of Holly Springs, the column counter-marched

and went into camp at Jackson, Mississippi, July 4th, 1862.

While his troops were encamped at Jackson, Gen. Davis obtained a 24 days leave of absence, leaving Brig. Gen. B. Mitchell temporarily in command, under whose direction the division started for Nashville, Tennessee, to reinforce Gen. Buell, marching via Paducah, Kentucky, where it crossed the Tennessee River, Florence, Alabama, Lawrenceburg, Mt. Pleasant, Columbus, Franklin, Murfreesboro, arriving at Nashville, Sept. 6, 1862, where the division rested until the 11th, when it marched towards Bowling Green, Ky., in pursuit of Bragg's army, and arrived at Louisville, Ky., September 26, 1862. October 1st it marched out of Louisville with the Army of the Ohio, which pressed Bragg's forces to Perryville, where he was compelled to make a stand on the 8th. The battle of Perryville and Chaplin Hills has become a matter of history. Gen. Davis' division, then under command of Gen. Mitchell, though divided and operating on different parts of the field, maintained its former well earned reputation. In the pursuit of the enemy to Crab Orchard, the division again engaged Bragg's rear guard at Lanesboro, and, by what was supposed to be prudent

beneficial results.

Without particularizing the subsequent marches of the division until it reached Nashville, and up to the morning of the 20th of December, 1862, when, in obedience to orders from our indomitable ROBERTSON, it broke camp and moved out on the Nolansville pike at the head of the 20th Army Corps. We next find Gen. Davis driving in the enemy's advance at Nolansville, and from Knob Gap, repulsing him with the loss of two 6 pound brass guns and several killed, wounded and taken prisoners.

On the morning of the 30th of December, the 1st division advanced to Grissom's house, near the Wilkinson pike, where it was formed in line of battle and moved forward upon the enemy, driving in his skirmishers until within musket range of his main lines. After several severe skirmishes, night having intervened a barrier to further operations for the day, Gen. Davis ordered that his troops lay upon their arms till morning. During the night the enemy massed a heavy force against McCook's right, and at day light the next morning his lines were observed by the writer moving rapidly against Johnson's division, with vastly superior numbers overpowering and driving it from its position, which exposed General Davis' right to the fire of a large and confident force to meet which his first brigade, Col. Post's, was ordered to change front to rear. The whole division was soon hotly engaged against McCook's division of Hardee's corps and Chaburn's division reinforced by Withers' division of Polk's corps. The attack was sudden and heavy, but the enemy's superior numbers were held in check for several minutes, when Gen. Davis ordered his troops to fall back slowly to a new position, which movement was repeated three times in retreating to Grissom's house, and in each order as to enable the 2d Minnesota battery to go

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